

FIELDNOTES

A Common Field One Day, A Field of Honor Forever

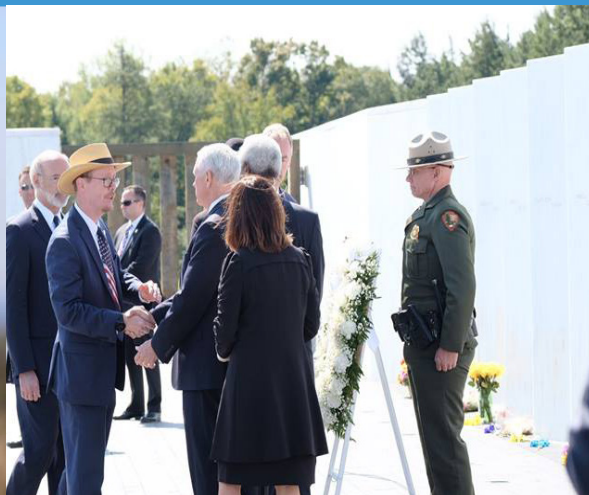


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Tower of Voices



Family member and Friends Board Secretary Deborah Borza with the TOV prototype chime.



President of the Families of Flight 93 Gordon Felt shakes hands with Vice President Pence on September 11.



Superintendent Steve Clark tours the memorial with Secretary of Interior Zinke.

As 2017 comes to a close and we reflect back on the past year at Flight 93 National Memorial one major milestone stands out – the Tower of Voices soundbreaking.

The highly anticipated Tower of Voices “soundbreaking” took place on September 10, with the final design piece of Flight 93 National Memorial set to be dedicated next September. During the Sixteenth Observance of September 11, 2001, two special guests attended the remembrance events – Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke – both guests toured the memorial and gave remarks during the September 11 morning service.

The past year has witnessed major events and milestones. Our annual Plant a Tree reforestation initiative was a huge success as volunteers have now planted 112,958 seedlings over the past six years! Walk 93 raised over \$7,000 on behalf of the National Park Service to support the Temporary Memorial Trail project next year. This event was made possible by many corporate sponsors and the wonderful team of Friends’ members and volunteers who care so much about the continued development and support of Flight 93 National Memorial. This year held firsts as well, including the summer-long Speaker Series that helped spread learning and awareness to visitors on the unique stories tied to this memorial. The first-ever Dark Sky Program for Friends members was a huge success thanks to the team from the Carnegie Science Center’s Buhl Planetarium. And most recently, the ceremonial prototype Tower of Voices chime was placed outside of the Learning Center throughout the month of October to expose and educate the public on the significance of the musical feature. While many programs and events will continue next year, we are looking to increase community outreach programs and continue to educate the public on the story of Flight 93, while engaging visitors and volunteers all year long.

To view the livestream of the soundbreaking event visit <https://www.facebook.com/Flight93Friends/videos/10155890121168094/>.

Annual Membership Meeting

Thank you to our Friends who gathered on November 4 in the Learning Center to celebrate the 2017 year during the Friends of Flight 93 Annual Membership Meeting. The annual meeting is held every year on the first Saturday in November and was well attended with nearly 40 members present! Patrick White, President of the Friends Board of Directors, opened the meeting with comments about a very successful year, but more importantly, thanking the membership and asking members to introduce themselves around the room.



Friends members pose with their 5-year pins at the annual membership meeting.



Highlights from this year's meeting included a short preview of the orientation film, now in production and final editing, with an anticipated release date set for January, as well as recognizing Friends members who have reached 5-years of stewardship with a new "5-year" membership pin! We are working on mailing 5-year pins to members who could not attend the meeting, but if you think that you have been a Friend for 5 years or longer, please let us know so we can check your membership record! Also discussed were the membership committee developing a list of new benefits for Friends members, including more exclusive events like the Dark Sky Program, a volunteer spotlight, book store discount and more.

The [2017 Annual Report](#) was distributed to members for review and keepsake. Members also elected [three new directors](#) to serve on the board: Jody Greene, David Finui, and Ed Sheehan, Jr. After nine years of service, Patrick White is retiring from the board with Donna Gibson, the current Vice President, ready to lead the board as President starting in January. Kathy Keiser is also resigning from the Board of Directors at the end of this year. We thank all of our past volunteer directors for their time with the Friends and their invaluable hours to help us continue to grow as an organization.

Thank You Flight 93 Volunteers!

On Saturday, November 18 the Friends and National Park Service held a joint volunteer recognition event in the Stoystown Legion with nearly 65 Flight 93 volunteers in attendance. This new joint celebration is a way to showcase how our two organizations work together to support the memorial with volunteers, resources and stewardship so that we may continue educating the public on the story of Flight 93.

Volunteer coordinator John Bernstiel opened with remarks on the NPS volunteer hours and contributions over the past year, as well as presenting Dawna Bates, Linda McLintock and Karen Zimmerman with a special certificate to highlight their accomplishments of over 300 hours of service each! Volunteers were given blue Flight 93 bracelets to wear and use as a conversation starter to further the impact of volunteering. Brooke Neel recognized Friends flag flyers who have helped fly over 300 flags this past year, and presented the group with certificates of appreciation for their efforts in continuing the flag flying program. Superintendent Steve Clark gave closing remarks on the status of Flight 93 projects, as well as plans for the next few year's at the memorial and the impact volunteers have at Flight 93. He also distributed commemorative wooden volunteer pens to all the attendees. We are looking forward to continuing volunteer efforts next year, and are excited to continue the new tradition of recognizing both Friends and NPS volunteers together!



Ambassadors help usher visitors to their seats during the Sixteenth Observance of September 11 this year.



Peggy Scherer volunteers on September 11 as part of the NPS...



Ambassadors and volunteers Pat and Ron Reinbold attend the Flight 93 Speaker Series.

Are you a volunteer?

A word with volunteer coordinator John Bernstiel

Dear Friends Members,

As we wrap up our 2017 season here at Flight 93 National Memorial, I look back on a very successful and exciting year for our volunteer program. For the first time in the program's history, our volunteers completed over 10,000 hours of service! We have successfully added three new volunteer positions, twenty-three new volunteers, and we are continuing the process of updating and expanding on our Ambassador training program. We also held the first joint volunteer recognition between Flight 93 National Memorial and the Friends of Flight 93.

As we look forward to 2018 and beyond, I am encouraged with the direction our program is going. A good portion of my optimism comes from the strong partnership we currently share. Friends members, volunteers, and employees have played a vital role in supporting the memorial's daily operations, assisting in planning and running events, both big and small, volunteer recruitment and community outreach, and of course, holding their own events in support of the fulfillment of both the memorial and NPS missions.

As always, we hope that you will continue to recruit new volunteers within your own communities so that we may further the mission of stewardship for this special place in honor of the forty passenger and crew members. New volunteer training will take place in March, and new volunteer applications are due by March 1, 2018, to participate in the training. Spread the word!

Thank you for all that you do and will continue to do for our staff, volunteers and our visitors. With your help, I know that the future of this memorial and our volunteer program will continue to move in a positive direction.

Sincerely,

John Bernstiel
Volunteer-In-Parks Coordinator



Volunteers Ginny Barnett and Cathy Ferlin at the Wall of Names after helping wash and care for the wall.



Trudi Alexander helps wash the Wall of Names.



Volunteer Dawna Bates poses with the prototype Tower of Voices Chime during the soundbreaking on September 10.



Ambassador Sharon Perry helps orient visitors outside of the Learning Center.

Friends members Don Alexander and Paul Donati volunteer at the Tower of Voices information table showcasing the chimes.



Coming Soon: *Friends of Flight 93 Calendar!*

After many suggestions from members and volunteers, we are happy to announce the addition of a Flight 93 calendar to the Friends product lineup!

This calendar will be available for purchase online and sold by Eastern National in the Flight 93 book store. The calendar features pictures, programs and events for next year as well as some facts about the memorial.

Next year, we are looking to develop more merchandise products such as an umbrella and new tote bag. If you have suggestions on items you would like to see considered for development, just drop us an email!



Community Outreach: Supporting the USS Somerset

In 2014, the US Navy commissioned the USS Somerset in memory of the forty passengers and crew of Flight 93; the ship is one of three vessels commissioned in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001, including the USS New York and the USS Arlington.

Since 2014, the USS Somerset, Families of Flight 93 and Flight 93 National Memorial partners have had a special relationship with the USS Somerset. This past September, Captain Bill Sherrod, former XO and current CO of the USS Somerset was a guest at the Sixteenth Observance ceremony, as well as Captain Stewart Bateshansky, the current XO who participated in September's remembrance ceremonies and carried a lantern during the Luminaria procession.



Shanksville Troop 151 outside of the Visitor Center with volunteers and rangers.

The employees of Global/SFC Valve organized a Holiday Donation drive to support the crew this holiday season while the ship is currently undergoing maintenance in San Diego, California. Global wanted to help brighten the sailors' holidays as they are stationed away from home and loved ones, and the Friends of Flight 93 and Families of Flight 93 were honored to support this initiative by donating 100 Friends of Flight 93 knit hats to the drive.

The Shanksville Boy Scouts Troop 151 organized a county-wide initiative to write letters, draw pictures, or contribute other special gifts to let the service men and women know that we supported them, and wish them a happy holiday season. The scout troop posed for a photo at Flight 93 National Memorial with rangers and volunteers to send along with their letters to the crew. The letters from various Somerset County units were delivered to Global and sent to the USS Somerset crew on December 3.

Thank you to all who contributed in making this holiday drive a success!



Picture from Global/SFC Valve website of the USS Somerset.

From the Director's Desk

Henry C. Scully



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been, as seen by all the activities and accomplishments outlined in this year-end newsletter.

While the exciting news is the

soundbreaking for the Tower of Voices and scheduled September 2018 dedication, I am pleased to report that overall attendance at Flight 93 has increased again in 2017, and just as important, the amount of students visiting has dramatically increased.

In partnership with the NPS Interpretative team at Flight 93, we have secured grants again from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, Pittsburgh Pirates Charities and others to fund transportation and programming for thousands of 4th to 12th graders from western PA. Schools are now able to access the Friends website to apply for funding to take part in educational programming anytime in 2017 and 2018. Educating the next generation is so important and one of the main focuses of the Friends. Seeing the Learning Center busy with programming activities, explaining the role of honor, teamwork and leadership of the 40 heroes is so rewarding to all who work at Flight 93 National Memorial.

We wish you all a happy holiday with your family and friends.

Cheers,

Henry C. Scully

Mercer Estates Winery

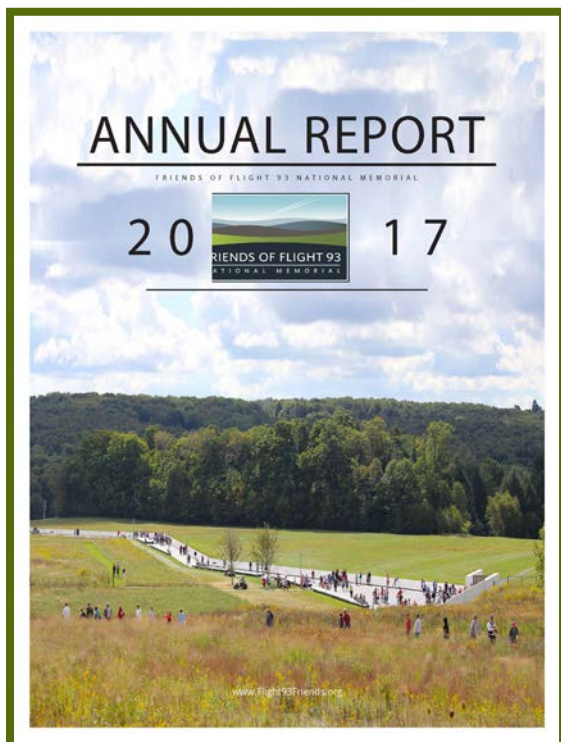
Mercer Vineyards in Washington state has produced a "Block 93" Cabernet since 2013. Rob Mercer, co-owner who served in the Iraq war, and John Derrick, head of vineyard operations for 25 years and best friend of Flight 93 passenger Richard Guadagno, came up with the idea to produce Block 93 wine and donate the proceeds around the country each year to post September 11 service men, women, their families and related non-profits.

To date, the project has contributed over \$70,000 in cash and wine donations to these deserving groups. Through Block 93, Mercer Vineyards has contributed annually to the Friends of Flight 93, and this year John Derrick came to Flight 93 National Memorial to honor his friend Richard Guadagno to see the memorial for the first time. We hope to have John speak at Flight 93 sometime in 2018.

We encourage you to become a Mercer Vineyard/Carma Club member or simply go online to www.mercerwine.com to purchase bottles of "Block 93" cabernet or any of their many other excellent wines. Wine now can be shipped legally from the state of Washington to Pennsylvania and other states which makes owning a bottle of Block 93 even easier!

Please support this worthwhile cause and at the same time enjoy wonderful wine produced by Mercer Vineyards in honor of post September 11 causes and the Friends of Flight 93.

John Derrick on a visit to Flight 93 National Memorial in May.



Stay Connected!



Facebook

Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign (Friends)
Flight 93 National Memorial (NPS)

Twitter

@FriendsFlight93 (Friends)
@Flight93NPS (NPS)



DID YOU SEE THE FRIENDS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT?

You can view it online at:

<http://www.flight93friends.org/annual-reports>

If you would like a physical copy, please email or call the office.

Volunteer Spotlight!

We want to showcase you, our volunteers!

Did you know we had over 500 volunteers in the park this year? With so many people supporting Flight 93, we understand it's hard to meet everyone and really get to know other volunteers. That's why we want to showcase you and your efforts toward the park! Flight 93 National Memorial would not be the same without YOU – whether you volunteer annually or every week, your dedication and commitment impacts each visitor's experience and helps the NPS preserve the memory of the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93.

Each month we will spotlight a different volunteer on our social media channels and quarterly in the Friends e-newsletter. Over time, you'll get to meet volunteers from the park service, Friends of Flight 93, or find out who volunteers for both organizations! Volunteers help clean lanterns, assist with invasive species removal, fly flags, assist with visitor services, annual events and so much more. Our volunteer base is the core of this park and we believe you deserve recognition for the time you give so selflessly.

Interested in submitting your story? The volunteer spotlight is an easy online form that asks a couple questions to get to know you better and understand why you volunteer at Flight 93 National Memorial. If you already volunteer and would like to participate today, please [follow this link](#) to submit your spotlight so that we may show the communities and our followers all that volunteers do to support Flight 93.

Interested in learning more about our awesome volunteers? Be sure to check in each month to meet a new volunteer!



"In the Spring of 2015, I was approached by a now Friends of Flight 93 board member and asked if I could take photos at that year's Plant a Tree event. I happily obliged and finished that cold, rainy day totally soaking wet, covered in mud from the waist down and with an inner voice telling me that I was supposed to keep going back.

So here I am 2.5 years later still volunteering by taking photos, flying flags and training to become an Ambassador. I am proud to be a Flight 93 volunteer and honored to be entrusted with documenting the events/happenings for future generations."

– Brenda Torrey, Friends of Flight 93 member, Flight 93 volunteer, NPS Ambassador-in-training



Ranger Katie Cordek raising the Plaza flag during orientation filming. Photo by Wild Excellence Films.

Support Flight 93 through Amazon Smile

You can support

Flight 93 National Memorial anytime while you shop on-line! The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is a registered participant of Amazon Smile, a website operated by Amazon, so that everytime you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases you make back to the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial.

[What are you waiting for?](#)

Start your holiday shopping AND give back.

It couldn't be easier!

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